Press Packet

Atlanta's Black LGBT Coalition

Press Conference

Capital State Building

Jan. 12, 2009

12:00 noon

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition Calls for the King Center to Rescind Invitation to Pastor Rick Warren

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and Allies Stand In Solidarity in a Peaceful Protest Against Pastor Rick Warren's M.L. King Jr. Address and the King Center's

For Immediate Release
Contact: R. Darlene Hudson (404)441-4827 (rhu4969824@aol.com) or Craig Washington (404) 790-5884 (werks.com)

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and Allies Stand In Solidarity in a Peaceful Protest Against Pastor Rick Warren's M.L. King Jr. Address and the King Center's.....

Atlanta- On January 12, 2009 at 12 noon on the steps of the State Capitol, the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition, an Atlanta based group committed to a social justice agenda and advancing the human rights of all marginalized communities will be addressing the forthcoming keynote address to be given by Pastor Rick Warren at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service scheduled for January 19, 2009.

The selection of Pastor Rick Warren as the keynote speaker in celebration of Dr. M.L. King Jr. is an affront to the King legacy and all that he labored to achieve and must be met in the spirit of non-violent resistance.

Warren's controversial and narrow views on the nature of homosexuality, committed gay & lesbian partnerships, and a woman's right to choose combined with his highly influential voice threatens to turn back years of progress in the fight for justice and equality for all people.

The Atlanta LGBT Coalition along with supportive clergy and allies will counter the divisive rhetoric of Pastor Warren that aims to keep those who are oppressed within the margins of society.

We believe as Dr. King did that "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter", and this matters.

We cannot afford to be silent as Pastor Warren continues to spread a message of intolerance and exclusion, especially when Dr. King's dream is so close to being realized.

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition Founding Members: Mary Anne Adams, Simone Bell, Zandra Conway, Cheryl Courtney-Evans, Imani Evans, R .Darlene Hudson, Rev. Antonio Jones, Rev. Maressa Pendermon, Charles Stephens, Craig Washington.

Position Paper for the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition.

The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition would like:

1) The King Center to choose another speaker whose views are more in line with the legacy of Dr King, which are inclusion of all groups working together to build the beloved community.
2) The King Center to be sensitive to the history of discrimination, hate and marginalization against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people (LGBT) people.
3) The King Center to return to the work of spreading King's message through workshops in nonviolence, building bridges of friendship and trust between diverse groups, etc
4) The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition hopes the choice of Warren does not signal a shift in King Center towards gays.

The selection of Pastor Rick Warren as the keynote speaker in celebration of Dr. M.L. King Jr. is an affront to the King legacy

1) Coretta Scott King recognized the marginalization of gays in society and stood firmly for their inclusion
2) Bayard Rustin, a trusted aide to King and the architect of the 1963 March on Washington was an openly gay man.
3) The late Rev Orange and a few other more recent organizers of the King events in Atlanta have always had gays at the table in organizing and presenting on that day.

Warren's controversial and narrow views on the nature of homosexuality, committed gay & lesbian partnerships, and a woman's right to choose combined with

1) Warren's ministry can be credited with addressing social concerns such as AIDS, poverty and global warming. He is not a bad person per se, but apparently a person who lacks knowledge on many important issues that he seeks to address.
2) Warren's views are extreme - comparison of abortion to the holocaust and women who abort to Nazis is one example.
3) He says even if biological basis for being gay is shown, gay people should suppress who they are (Ann Curry interview) – another extreme view.
4) He links gay behavior to pedophilia and incest and polygamy – behaviors which cannot be proven to be found more among gays and probably occur as much among heterosexuals. Most gay people abhor those behaviors as most straight people do as well.

Warren's highly influential voice threatens to turn back years of progress in the fight for justice and equality for all people.

Rick Warren has many platforms from which to speak and therefore should think before he delivers messages that are not true and are hurtful. The Implications are people will hear from Warren that gays are not equal to other people, that it's ok to discriminate against gay people and that gay people should not be who they are. We say this because Warren

1) has President elect's ear
2) presides over a large church and very influential with other Christian evangelicals
3) is a well known author and sells many books nationally and internationally

Obama question:

1) Many gays campaigned and voted for Obama b/c of his policies around health, the economy, education, and the rights of gays.
2) Critical of his selection of Warren to give the invocation at his inauguration for same reasons Warren is a poor choice to speak at the King event.
3) Will hold Obama accountable for his actions negative and positive – which he has indicated his administration is open to.

Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children." Martin Luther King Jr

We in Chicago's Gay Liberation Network stand in solidarity with your protest against Rick Warren as a speaker at the MLK Center for Non-Violent Social Change event. This is especially egregious given Coretta Scott King's strong support for gay rights and including LGBTs in the beloved community.

In Solidarity, Bob Schwartz, Gay Liberation Network, Chicago

We stand proudly with you in Atlanta for your courageous stance. Peace,
Andrew Conte, Tampa Bay, Florida

"Gay and lesbian people have families, and their families should have legal protection, whether by marriage or civil union,"..... "A constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages is a form of gay bashing and it would do nothing at all to protect traditional marriages."

Coretta Scott King

Men often hate each other because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they can not communicate; they can not communicate because they are separated.

Martin Luther King Jr. Stride Toward Freedom : the Montgomery Story (1958)

As we approach the King holiday Georgia WAND reclaims the words of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.* These words guide our work to empower women, to reduce militarism and violence, and to bring about an environmental awareness of nuclear weapons, waste and power that threaten all life on earth".

Bobbie Paul Executive Director Georgia WAND

With all due respect to many civil rights leaders, the planned protests regarding the selection of Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at Barack Obama's inauguration, and to deliver the keynote address at the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church in January are justified

Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel is Senior Pastor of Victory for the World United Church of Christ in Stone Mountain, GA.

AGENDA (Page 2)

ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 2009

1pm –4pm

I. **Welcome/Introductions** – Imani Evans 1:00 –1:15

II. **Brief History** – Craig Washington 1:15 – 1:30

III. **Overview of the Day** – Rev. Maressa 1:30 – 1:40

- Agenda
- Ground Rules
- Parking Lot

IV. **Creating a Shared Vision, Mission** and **Values** 1:40 – 2:40

Here we will answer the following questions:

- Who is the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition?
- What is the business of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition? Why
- What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?

We will use individual responses to create a shared vision, mission and values of the organization.

V. **BREAK** 2:40 –2:50

VI. **Creating a "group definition" and organizational structure** 2:50 – 3:50

Here we will answer the questions:

- ✓ How should the Black LGBT Coalition be defined? And
- ✓ What should the organizational structure be?

We will use individual responses to create a shared understanding of our legal and organizational structure.

VII. **Closing/Next Steps** 3:50 - 4:00

DRAFT
AGENDA
ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION MEETING
Saturday, May 2, 2009
1pm –4pm

Facilitator: Reverend Maressa Pendermon
Scribe:

Desired Outcomes:

- Coalition members will ***agree on*** shared vision, mission and values.
- Coalition members will ***agree on*** a group definition an organizational structure.

Strategic Pre-meeting Questions:

1. Who is the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition?
2. What is the work of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition? Why is that work necessary?
3. What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?
4. How should the Black LGBT Coalition be organized and what should the organizational structure be?

Working Definitions:

- **Alliance** – An agreement between two or more parties made in order to advance common goals.
- **Association** – A group of individuals who voluntarily enter into an agreement to form a body or organization to accomplish a purpose.
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- **Corporation** - a group of people who get a charter granting them as a body, certain of the legal powers, rights, privileges, and liabilities of an individual, distinct from those of the individuals making up the group; a corporation can buy, sell, and inherit property.
- **"Group Definition"** – How the group will define itself as a legal entity (i.e. alliance, coalition, association, corporation, organization, etc.)
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- **Values/Principles** – The rules by which a group makes decisions about right and wrong, should and shouldn't; good and bad. The beliefs of a group in which they have an emotional investment.
- **Vision** – What the impacted area, people and institutions are like once the mission is accomplished.

11/20/08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Imani Evans, (404) 368-8827 or Craig Washington (404) 790-5884

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition Endorses Jim Martin for U.S. Senate

ATLANTA- Today, the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition, a newly formed group committed to a social justice agenda and advancing the human rights of all marginalized communities announced its endorsement of Jim Martin of Georgia for U.S. Senate.

Jim Martin has spent 35 years in public service and is on record supporting Federal Workplace Equality Law to Protect LGBT Americans, Protecting Adoption Rights for Same-Sex Couples and Increasing Funding for HIV/AID Prevention, Treatment and Education. Equally important, he supports upholding Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose.

"We want a Senator who clearly understands that affordable healthcare for all Americans is a top priority," said Rev., Dr. Kathi Martin, a founding member of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition. "Jim Martin has promised to continue his fight in Washington for social change by supporting programs that provide job training and placement services for at-risk youth, increasing federal funds to expand state services to include the working poor and providing tax incentives to businesses that hire welfare recipients."

Jim Martin has a not only made promises but has a proven record of support of our concerns. He has supported issues like healthcare and consumer protection for nearly two decades in the Georgia House of Representatives. In his own words, "I was also a leader in the effort to create Peach Care, the program that provides health care to thousands of Georgia's children".

"The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition believes that President- Elect Barak Obama brings a new leadership to America and that Jim Martin can bring a new kind of leadership to Georgia," said Rev., Dr. Martin. "We are working hard to decrease violence against women, to insure that everyone has affordable housing, living wages and of course ending the senseless war in Iraq. We need a progressive partner in Washington".

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition Founding Members:
Simone Bell, Mary Anne Adams, Rev. Dr. Kathi Martin, Craig Washington, Darlene Hudson, Rev. Antonio Jones, Dr. Dionne Bates, Rev. Maressa Pendermon, Imani Evans, Zandra Conway.

###

Guidance Document:
Proposed Leadership Structure for the of Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition
8/2/13

I. Composition
The management team shall be comprised of at least (2) but no more than (3) Co-Directors. The management shall be multi-gendered.

**We seek to ensure diversity on the management team around gender. Though not a requirement we should make a global effort to ensure gender diversity of the management team.*

II. Roles and Responsibilities

- Convening Coalition meetings
- Great community rapport
- Ability to recruit new membership to the Coalition
- Identify current advocacy priorities
- Determine committee structures
- Organizational development skills and experience
- Administrative duties as needed
- Commitment and ability to ensure financial sustainability of Coalition
- Develop Coalition membership guidelines
- Provide support and guidance to committees to ensure success
- Provide leadership in developing organizational and financial plans, and carrying out plans and policies authorized by Coalition
- Promote active and broad participation by Coalition members in all areas of the organization's work
- Maintain official records and documents and ensure compliance

- Ensure Coalition has long-range strategy which achieves its mission, serves the community and makes consistent timely progress to that end.

- Coordination of communication strategy for the Coalition: Serves as spokesperson for the Coalition or can designate other Coalition member. Capable of and accountable in representing the interests of the Coalition's point of view, mission, and interests to our diverse constituents and stakeholders

- Ensure rapid response and communication of our position in current issues that impact us, ensure that our public positions adequately reflect needs of community and mission and values of Coalition and led by broad needs of the community and missions and objectives of the coalition.

- Inspires organizational culture which attracts, sustains, motivates and replicates diverse management team.

- Responsible for developing sound financial practices

- Responsible for developing succession plan

Terms

Co-directors are elected to a two-year term. Once (1) two-year term is served directors can run for an additional two-year term. If Co-director seeks an additional two-year term after serving 2 two-year terms consecutively, she/he has to wait at least one year before being eligible to run for a third two-year term. Someone with community organizing experience and skill

Nominations

- Nominated by Coalition member or can self-nominate
- All members present at election meeting can vote.

Eligibility

- Active member of Coalition for at least one year
- Ability to meet roles and responsibilities as described above
- Complement to management team members
- Belief in mission of the organization

Immediate Next Steps/Current Needs

- Co-Directors will clarify remaining structure of the coalition.
- If no nomination arises, Interim Co-Directors may be appointed

All Black LGBT Coalition →

→ 3 way split for site

→ monthly meeting date
↔ conference call

January – reconvening the group
- ~~fold~~ fleshing out structure

= engaging community
= what focusing

23 12 pm →

Jan 23 re 12 pm
- cheryl courtney
- Michael
Little SP Community center
- Rev. Moussa

Evans

- Review
- What next } Craig facilitates

Moussa → volunteers

Imani →

Dec 14 - Debrief

Review

March 28

March

~~Oprah~~ - Sondra Lawson
Michael Cogwood
Anne Holmes
} new members — expressed interest

Assessing ~~the~~ the Coalition
reviewing history from Nov 08 - March 09

May ~~2nd~~ ~~extensive~~ 1-4
agree on mission vision values
develop org structure

May 18 - Mission statement submitted

June 25 - approved mission statement (originally June 13)

July 25th -> Approval of Mission, Values & Vision

July 30 - press release re Rev Eric Lee
SCLC

DRAFT

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Austin Lorde 12/1/12

Funding
- elected officials

Printing - * Mami Flyers - low cost printer
could have palm cards
* - program booklet

Food (Josh Budges no longer St. Mark caterer
- Now 2 ladies serve as caterer
Josh will send them Budges invoice to show
→ what Budges Catering

- Proclamation
  - Mayor -
  - Jon Daiser - } candidate must appear
  - Pride (Buck)

will give $500 donation - .ed / needs specs
- will provide 10-15 volunteers
- promotion thru newsletter 7000 ppl

* Out on Film - can present film screening of Brother Outsider

Meeting with - Alexis Gomez -
- Austin, Lorde, Mark Riggs,

12/15 [illegible]

Next Steps

The Next Step – enfranchisement piece
– involvement

* Map – who's doing what in Atlanta
– invitation to action →
The Dream →
* Wake up and live into it"
Re-imagine the Dream
– Pride having a role – LGBT
– Sylvia Rivera –

* Dec 13th Pat Hussain – Rush
* Feb 18 – Audre Lorde
* Feb 14 – Bring the Love
* Feb 16th Women Besting Women – LGBT Couples love

* January 7th sit in / protest couples coming to get married →

Maressa + Steph – Program + Theme
– !
↓
will develop PSA for WRFG

Dec 8th → – Steph + Maressa – program theme rally
– Rush – events / cut on film
Josh – – will reach out to Whole Food

Coalition meeting July 25 2009

- 1 - schedules regular meetings
- 2) have ppl take responsibility for making the meetings
- Mission statement approved ✓
  values and vision approved ✓
- Structure
  - co directors or (management/ leadership team)
  - trusted to make executive decisions

*committees have chairs
(chairs) + (co-directors could make up the management team)

---

*Press release re: E. Lynn Harris

SCLC

ppl - be aware re session

→

1- ~~Support this~~ Rev. Eric Lee

Support Rev. Lee →

support philosophy + teachings - or are you just in it for power and

~~Points~~

audience

"ain't it black" - how can you exclude us?

~~Asst~~ Intro See homophobia as different resistance to gay marriage

(1) not fire Rev Eric Lee →
- call them out as bullies
- oppressive

(2) how you perceive the exclusion of light rights from civil rights is compatible with MLK doctrine / Kingian vision?

(3) Coalition represented by folks who support SCLC overall

SCLC

Eric Lee - aspires to be president of national org

SCLC owns (1) SCLC Women's Bldg

(2) SCLC national headquarters - [redacted]

SCLC is distinct from SCLC Women

→ Lee is backing for presidency, Bernice wants to get it

SCLC can't pay their light bill

use Joseph Lowery quote

Board - Dr. King didn't speak re gay issues, women's issues

- check their HIV commitment (an issue that Dr. King didn't address)
  - homophobia spreads AIDS
- Bill Lucy - LABOR
  - on national Board
- make argument that MLK was [redacted]ocrats

* meet with
Ron Woods - Exec Director

* Facebook campaign ( )

* Donna Payne - HRC

→ get HRC ~~[redacted]~~ to honor Rev. Eric Lee

& Rev. Fred Taylor } SCLC
& Randall Osborn } fired / tried to fire

→ Uhuzhi Vaid

→ Jim Dill foundation

→ Marian Thorne

Next Steps

*Blk LGBT Coalition site

*Identify working committees

*Appoint leaders

Feb

Feb 14 - debriefing

March 28 - Assessment

May 2 - Extensive articulation (Cheryl Gordon Letters) (Mutual Answer)

May 18 - Mission statement submitted

June 25 - Approval of mission, vision, values

July 25 - structure - Naomi, Craig co leaders

Dec 21st - conf call

|

next steps - fine tune org structure

↓ monthly mtng date/call *

- fleshing out structure (determine committees)
- org opportunities {ADAP, Legislative Blk Caucus, Mayor Kasim Reed}
- engaging community

Anti Bullying

- Safe Schools in our Communities

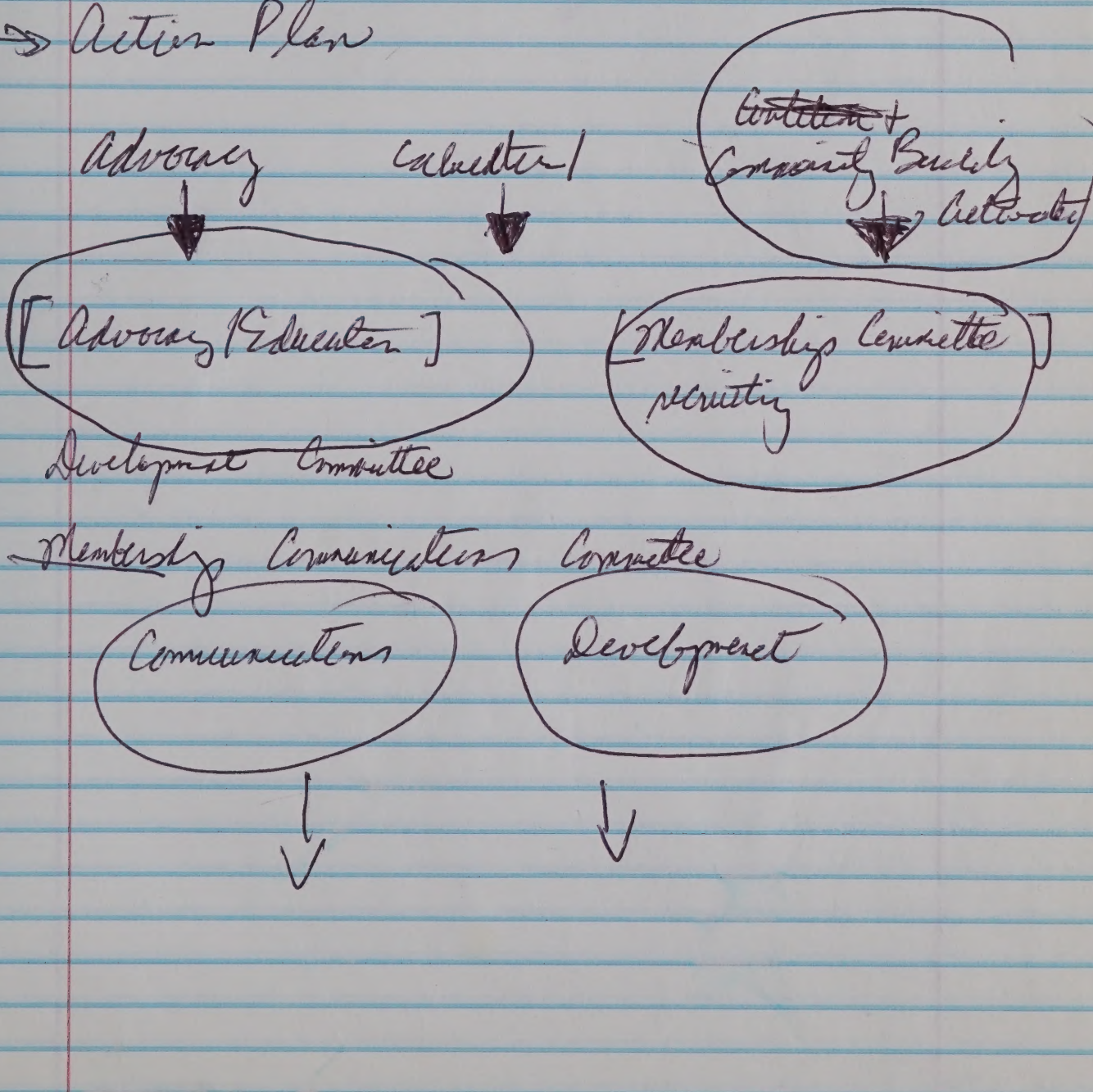
iez meeting date

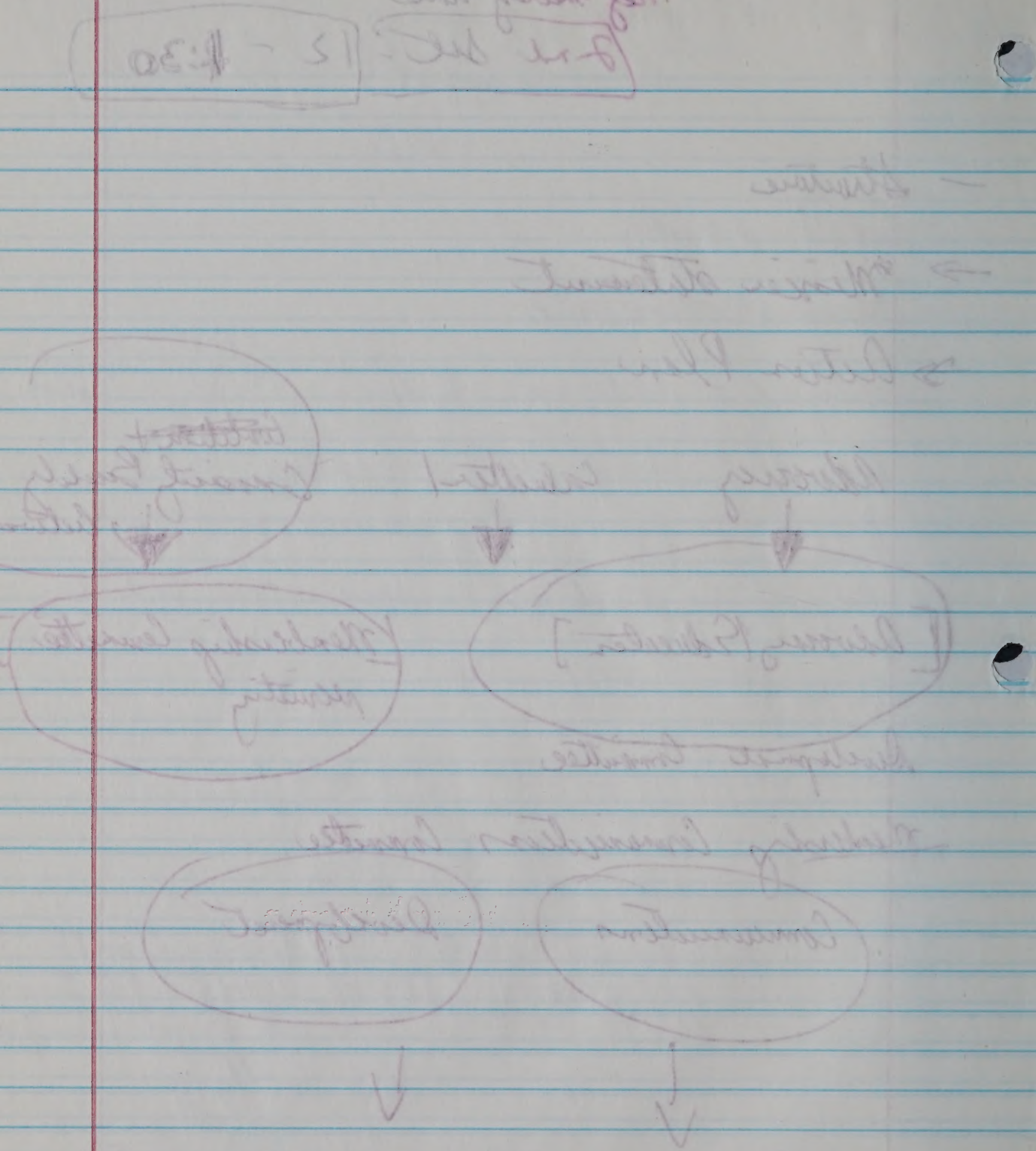
2nd Sat. 12 - 4:30

- Structure

→ Mission Statement

⇒ Action Plan





AA01

HIV+ Gay mens support grp Feb 8th
at Absolute Care

Absolute Care
- homelessness prevention

Moji Sala - FB
on facebook
netflix

Dir W.O.C film festival
(in Atlanta)
(March 2010)

AGENDA
ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION MEETING
Saturday, July 24, 2009
1pm –4pm

Facilitator: Reverend Maressa Pendermon
Scribe:

Desired Outcomes:

- Coalition members will ***agree on*** shared vision, mission and values.
- Coalition members will ***agree on*** a group definition for an organizational structure.

I. **Welcome/Introductions**	11:00 –11:15
II. **Approval of Mission, Vision, Values**	11:15 – 11:45
III. **Review and Approval of Proposed Organizational Structure**	11:45 – 12:30
IV. **SCLC Discussion**	12:30 – 1:30
IV. **Next Steps /Closing**	1:30 – 2:00

Proposed Organizational Structure

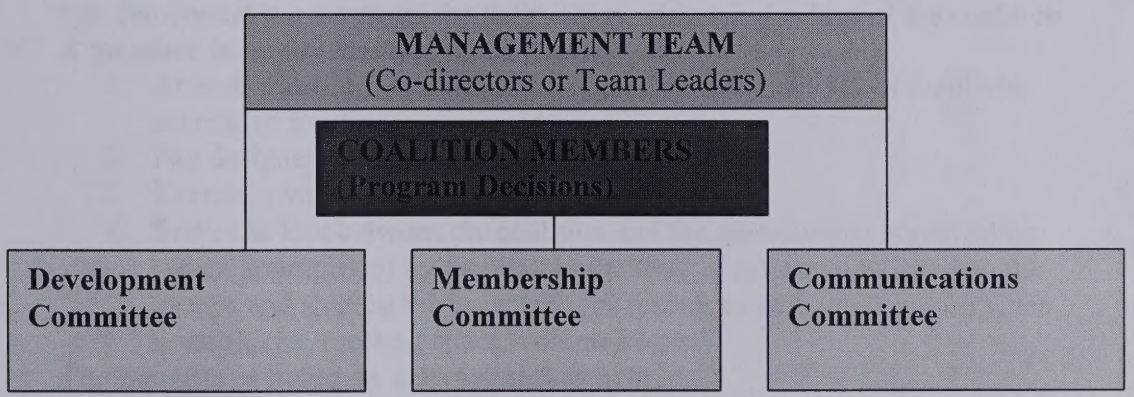
Based on the group's May 2, 2009 conversation, I propose the following structure:

Team Structure

Team structures differ from hierarchical structures in several ways. A team structure attempts to link the formal and informal group relations. This type of organization emphasizes interpersonal relations as a determinant of conduct and performance. Some of the features of this type of organizational structure include:

- ✓ Managers who serve more as facilitators and group leaders than final decision-makers.
- ✓ Managers whose primary responsibility is setting objectives and evaluating performance.
- ✓ Work styles that are more participatory and interactive.
- ✓ Focus on tasks, accomplishment of shared objectives, and accountability to the team. Use of temporary teams or task forces to deal with particular issues or crosscutting initiatives.

Team Structure Example



Suggestion:

The management team could consist of **co-directors** or a group of **team leaders** who would be responsible for coordinating the work of committees. I suggest three and no more than four working committees should we choose this structure. Members of the management team of the ATLBlackLGBT Coalition must be Black/African-American and will have a fixed term of 2 years. Members of management may serve up to two additional terms after their initial term.

Proposed Membership Structure

The ATLBlackLGBT Coalition has decided to be a **membership organization.** A membership organization is one that is funded by individuals who have common needs, share a common vision, and are willing to commit their time, financial or other resources, and/ or patronage. Membership can be individual or corporate, and may also be based on professional, religious, political, or social affiliations. The following specifics are proposed:

- ✓ **The ATLBlackLGBT will have both individual and group membership**. **Groups** can join the coalition by paying the designated "group dues" Groups will participate in the decision-making of the coalition by having up to four (4) active members attending coalition meetings. **Each year groups must designate 1 (one) of their active members as the voting member within the coalition**. **Individuals** may join the coalition by paying the designated "individual dues" and actively participating in coalition activities. Individuals will participate in the decision-making of the coalition by having 1 vote.
- ✓ **Membership is open** to any group or individual who agrees to pay the designated dues and to support and work toward achieving the coalition's mission and stated goals; and who agree to intentionally demonstrate the stated values of the coalition when interacting within the coalition and within the community. The coalition has the right to revoke or refuse membership to any group or individual that demonstrates a disregard for the mission, vision and values of the coalition
- ✓ **A member in good standing is one that:**
    1. Attends meetings regularly. Must be represented at 75% of regularly scheduled meetings.
    2. Pay designated dues
    3. Exercises voting rights
    4. Serves as link between the coalition and the membership organization (when appropriate) by facilitating the flow of information between the groups and sharing the organizations resources with the coalition when possible (i.e. meeting space, volunteers etc.)
- ✓ **The benefits of being an active member are:**
    1. The opportunity to work with like-minded individuals to achieve shared goals within the targeted communities.
    2. The tangible support of the coalition for your individual and group social justice activities within the coalition's targeted communities.
    3. Structured opportunities for leadership and skills- building workshops sponsored by the coalition and its community partners.

Suggestion

I suggest we create a **membership application** that will work for both individuals and groups and that we design a ***membership orientation*** so that when we are formally introduced to the community we can have applications available as well as announce a membership orientation.

Position Paper for the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition.

The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition would like:

1) The King Center to choose another speaker whose views are more in line with the legacy of Dr King, which are inclusion of all groups working together to build the beloved community.
2) The King Center to be sensitive to the history of discrimination, hate and marginalization against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people (LGBT) people.
3) The King Center to return to the work of spreading King's message through workshops in nonviolence, building bridges of friendship and trust between diverse groups, etc
4) The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition hopes the choice of Warren does not signal a shift in King Center towards gays.

The selection of Pastor Rick Warren as the keynote speaker in celebration of Dr. M.L. King Jr. is an affront to the King legacy

1) Coretta Scott King recognized the marginalization of gays in society and stood firmly for their inclusion
2) Bayard Rustin, a trusted aide to King and the architect of the 1963 March on Washington was an openly gay man.
3) The late Rev Orange and a few other more recent organizers of the King events in Atlanta have always had gays at the table in organizing and presenting on that day.

Warren's controversial and narrow views on the nature of homosexuality, committed gay & lesbian partnerships, and a woman's right to choose combined with

1) Warren's ministry can be credited with addressing social concerns such as AIDS, poverty and global warming. He is not a bad person per se, but apparently a person who lacks knowledge on many important issues that he seeks to address.
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4) He links gay behavior to pedophilia and incest and polygamy – behaviors which cannot be proven to be found more among gays and probably occur as much among heterosexuals. Most gay people abhor those behaviors as most straight people do as well.

Warren's highly influential voice threatens to turn back years of progress in the fight for justice and equality for all people.

Rick Warren has many platforms from which to speak and therefore should think before he delivers messages that are not true and are hurtful. The Implications are people will hear from Warren that gays are not equal to other people, that it's ok to discriminate against gay people and that gay people should not be who they are. We say this because Warren

1) has President elect's ear
2) presides over a large church and very influential with other Christian evangelicals
3) is a well known author and sells many books nationally and internationally

Obama question:

1) Many gays campaigned and voted for Obama b/c of his policies around health, fixing the economy, education, and the rights of gays.
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— Michael →
— subject to some change with new session

Health Subcommittee, House Appropriations

Mickey Channell - Vice Chair	HD 116	R- Greensboro
Donna Sheldon – Secretary	HD 105	R- Dacula
Mark Burkhalter	HD 50	R- Johns Creek
Matt Dollar	HD 45	R- Marietta
Carolyn Hugley	HD 133	D- Columbus
Ed Rynders	HD 152	R- Albany
Jay Shaw	HD 176	D- Lakeland
Ron Stephens	HD 164	R- Savannah
Pat Gardner	HD 57	D- Atlanta

* * * ADAP contacts

Anti Bullying Lobby Day
ADAP Lobby Day – 2nd wk February

Legislative Black Caucus – Health Committee (need to confirm)

Chairman: Rep. Lester Jackson
Rep. Howard Mosby
Senator ~~Regina Thomas~~ Lester Jackson
Rep. Virgil Fludd
Rep. Mike Glanton
Rep. Craig Gordan
Rep. Pam Stephenson
Rep. Robbin Shipp
Rep. "Able" Mable Thomas

Michael will update ↓

Congressman David Scott *
Kasim Reed *

set up presentation w/ David + Edith B by early March

Health Commissioner Rhonda Meadows
(~~wants to~~ should not cut ADAP budget)

Atl Black LGBT Coalition

available (not on yp.)

Sunday
- groups/orgs that start and do not finish
- Faith Warren protest - Austin Forde breakfast
- body addressing religious institutions [individual ⇄ org]

Mtng
- ITLA support
- Black queer people concerns
- beyond HIV + health ~~crisis~~ issues
- Black queer voice

May 2
1pm - 5

Faith and Community Alliance - Wednesday

Aware - opportunity
efficient way to do work
inter-organizational communication

** by April 6th
↓ Vanessa will have agenda

Youth

Process

- Packets
- Minutes
- Agenda
- Food

Materials

- Decisions
- Agenda
- Press Conference w/ Atl LGBT Coalition
- Packets
- Minutes

ATLBLACKLGBT COALITION
Craig's Draft- Mission Statement, Values, and Vision
Sunday, May 18, 2009

Mission Statement

The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition is a coalition of black lgbt leaders and activists that addresses the intersection of oppression systems which impacts black lgbt people and all marginalized people. The Coalition engages in advocacy, education, coalition and community building efforts to holistically liberate people, secure human rights and create a more loving society.

Values

We value diversity of race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexuality, age, physical ability and all other identities fixed and mutable.

We are intentional in a broad inclusion of all who are willing to work toward our mission in our work *based upon their ability.*

We conduct our planning and implementation actions and processes in a manner that is open and transparent to the people.

We demonstrate respect for ourselves, one another, and the communities we serve.

We hold and demonstrate love for one another. Our relationships and our work is grounded in love.

We are committed to understanding and learning more about the shifting positions we may occupy as oppressed and privileged. We choose to use our privileges in the service of those who are denied such privileges.

We uphold the right of all individuals to lead their own lives, and determine their own goals, and make decisions with autonomy and dignity.

We believe that all human beings are equal in their immeasurable value.

We believe it is imperative that all voices, all expressions of truth, ideas, feelings and beliefs deserve to be heard and recognized

Vision

We envision a society in which black lgbt people and others oppressed will experience the full spectrum of human rights, have access to the goods and services they need, be able to realize their full potential, and have the freedom to live openly as they are!

DRAFT

AGENDA

ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 2009

1pm –4pm

Facilitator: Reverend Maressa Pendermon
Scribe:

Desired Outcomes:

- Coalition members will ***agree on*** shared vision, mission and values.
- Coalition members will ***agree on*** a group definition an organizational structure.

Strategic Pre-meeting Questions:

1. Who is the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition?
2. What is the work of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition? Why is that work necessary?
3. What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?
4. How should the Black LGBT Coalition be organized and what should the organizational structure be?

Working Definitions:

- **Alliance** – An agreement between two or more parties made in order to advance common goals.
- **Association** – A group of individuals who voluntarily enter into an agreement to form a body or organization to accomplish a purpose.
- **Coalition** – a coalition is an alliance among individuals or groups, during which they cooperate in joint action, each in her/his own self-interest, joining forces together for a common cause. A joining of factions with overlapping interests.
- **Corporation** - a group of people who get a charter granting them as a body, certain of the legal powers, rights, privileges, and liabilities of an individual, distinct from those of the individuals making up the group; a corporation can buy, sell, and inherit property.
- **"Group Definition"** – How the group will define itself as a legal entity (i.e. alliance, coalition, association, corporation, organization, etc.)
- **Mission** – The purpose, the business an organization engages in to achieve the purpose. Mission should answer the question: Why does the organization exist?
- **Organization** – A structure through which individuals cooperate systematically to conduct business.
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- **Values/Principles** – The rules by which a group makes decisions about right and wrong, should and shouldn't; good and bad. The beliefs of a group in which they have an emotional investment.
- **Vision** – What the impacted area, people and institutions are like once the mission is accomplished.

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II. **Brief History** – Craig Washington 1:15 – 1:30

III. **Overview of the Day** – Rev. Maressa 1:30 – 1:40

- Agenda
- Ground Rules
- Parking Lot

IV. **Creating a Shared Vision, Mission** and **Values** 1:40 – 2:40

Here we will answer the following questions:

- Who is the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition?
- What is the business of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition? Why
- What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?

We will use individual responses to create a shared vision, mission and values of the organization.

V. **BREAK** 2:40 –2:50

V1. **Creating a "group definition" and organizational structure** 2:50 – 3:50

Here we will answer the questions:

- ✓ How should the Black LGBT Coalition be defined? And
- ✓ What should the organizational structure be?

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VII. **Closing/Next Steps** 3:50 - 4:00

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- **Vision** – What the impacted area, people and institutions are like once the mission is accomplished.

gbmnews.com
kenkeria01c yahoo.com

NOTES and UPCOMING ACTION
MLK WARREN ACTION COMMITTEE meeting

Friday, January 2, 2009 radial café

Upcoming:

- Pre-Press Conference Meeting tentatively Scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2009 @ 7:00 PM ET. (Location: San Francisco Coffee – Dekalb Ave)
- Press Conference Tentatively Scheduled for January 12th 12 noon. GA State Capitol Bldg
- Warren Protest Action @ King Center on January 19th 9:00am ET)
- Rustin|Lorde Breakfast @ 139 Ralph McGill January 19 10:30am – 12:30pm
- MLK|Orange March – LGBTQ contingent (March Begins @ 1 PM ET Peachtree and Ellis St)

Highlights from Meeting:

- The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition will serve as the central leadership body of this organized community response.
- Researchers pulling Warren's Profile and Public Statements under Scrutiny. (Leticia Campbell and Todd Vierling) Deepali Gohkale will ask Leticia to get reliable info and quotes re Warren's anti-gay, anti-choice stances for our press conference and subsequent communications and community mobilization efforts. We want to be clear and unified about what we are addressing.
- Compiling Letter of Protest to King Center (for Warren Invite)

  A revised press release/letter of protest that addresses Isaac Farris and the King Center will be drafted *(by Wednesday, January 7???)*

- Request Meeting with King Center Leaders (Tentative) Elder Jones agreed to invite discussion with Rev. Warnock. Have not yet confirmed if Elder Jones will also contact Isaac Farris, president and CEO of King Center
- Determine Appropriate "message" for Action. - Paris Hatcher will lead this effort re: demonstration signage and synchronization with other communication language
- Determine Logistics for Action attendee's to make way to Rustin|Lorde Breakfast. Todd will take this on
- Engage lgbt student organizations. Michael Brewer will notify Afrekete, Safe Space, BlackOUT, and Affinity. Volunteers will contact Emory and other student orgs

MLK-WARREN ACTION PLANNING COMMITTEE CONTACT LIST
Action: January 19, 2009 @ King Center

NAME	EMAIL	CELL	WEB
Craig Washington	craig@craigwerks.com	404-790-5884	
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R. Darlene Hudson	rhu4969824@aol.com	404-441-4827	
Jamida Orange	ojayorange@yahoo.com	404-597-7795	
Kirk Surgeon	inthelifeatl@aol.com		
Darian Aaron	darianoutloud@mac.com		http://loldarian.blogspot.com/
Deepali Gokhale	deepali@mindspring.com		
Todd Vierling	todd@glbtatl.org	404-492-9082	
Michael Brewer	mjbrewer86@hotmail.com		
Jeff Graham	jeff@georgiaequality.org		http://georgiaequality.org
Jeff Schade	jeff@glbtatl.org	678-346-0562	
Adam May	adam@glbtatl.org	404-803-1259	

MLK ACTION PLANNING COMMITTEE Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2009 bonzoi at 1530 dekalb ave

NAME	EMAIL	CELL	WEB

MLK-WARREN ACTION PLANNING COMMITTEE CONTACTS
Action: January 19, 2006 @ King Center

Craig Washington – King Center

I stand before you an openly gay Black man in front of the GA State Capitol Bldg knowing that we here gathered today share a common faith. We believe in justice and equality for all, not just reserved for those who look, or love or worship like we do, but for all. The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and our allies, sister and brother outsiders, oppose the King Center's decision to have Rick Warren serve as the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr Commemorative Service.

Warren compares woman having an abortion to Nazis, pro-choice supporters to Holocaust deniers. He opposes gays' rights to marriage and his church will not admit any gays unless they repent their homosexuality. These views, words are acts of oppression. They are incompatible with the dream of the beloved community Martin Luther King envisioned and the spirit in which Coretta Scott King founded the King Center.

While we may agree to disagree, we cannot build bridges by rewarding those who build walls that lock certain groups out. We stand together today because we ain't gonna stand for sexism or homophobia, discrimination or condemnation. Today we take a stand declaring our common humanity, knowing we are wonderfully created just as we are. We stand up for our freedom to define our own families, love whom we choose to love, and maintain control over our bodies.

Years from now people may ask you where were you when Warren came to Atlanta. What did you do? You can tell them you did the right thing on the right day. On Monday, January 19th 9am at the corner of Jackson and Auburn Avenue join us as we conduct a peaceful demonstration. We need you to get up early come out and take a stand, step into your place in history. On the eve of a most historical inauguration, lets us demonstrate together once again that change really is possible, that change is gon come. And the change is Now! Thank you!

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For Immediate Release
Contact: R. Darlene Hudson (404)441-4827 (rhu4969824@aol.com) or Craig Washington (404) 790-5884 (craig@craigwerks.com)

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and Allies Stand In Solidarity in a Peaceful Protest Against Pastor Rick Warren's M.L. King Jr. Address and the King Center's.....

Atlanta- On January 12, 2009 at 12 noon on the steps of the State Capitol, the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition, an Atlanta based group committed to a social justice agenda and advancing the human rights of all marginalized communities will be addressing the forthcoming keynote address to be given by Pastor Rick Warren at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service scheduled for January 19, 2009.

The selection of Pastor Rick Warren as the keynote speaker in celebration of Dr. M.L. King Jr. is an affront to the King legacy and all that he labored to achieve and must be met in the spirit of non-violent resistance.

Warren's controversial and narrow views on the nature of homosexuality, committed gay & lesbian partnerships, and a woman's right to choose combined with his highly influential voice threatens to turn back years of progress in the fight for justice and equality for all people.

The Atlanta LGBT Coalition along with supportive clergy and allies will counter the divisive rhetoric of Pastor Warren that aims to keep those who are oppressed within the margins of society.

We believe as Dr. King did that "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter", and this matters.

We cannot afford to be silent as Pastor Warren continues to spread a message of intolerance and exclusion, especially when Dr. King's dream is so close to being realized.

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition Founding Members: Mary Anne Adams, Simone Bell, Zandra Conway, Cheryl Courtney-Evans, Imani Evans, R .Darlene Hudson, Rev. Antonio Jones, Rev. Maressa Pendermon, Charles Stephens, Craig Washington.

COMMUNITY FEATURE |

Calling all soldiers

New organization seeks to tap black gay Atlanta's political power

By RYAN LEE
Dec. 05, 2008

WHETHER LISTENING TO BARACK Obama's Grant Park victory speech on election night, or seeing the thousands of people who rallied around the country in opposition to California's Proposition 8, gay progressives have many reasons to be inspired since the election.

But after the speeches end and the candlelight vigils burn out, an obvious question remains: Now what?

"Let's celebrate our successes, but let's also roll up our sleeves and get to work," says gay activist Craig Washington, who felt the urge to "take advantage of the momentum of Obama's election."

The day after Obama's victory, Washington sent an e-mail to leading black gay and lesbian activists in Atlanta about the need to capitalize on the energy created by the historic election. The e-mail also warned people not to get lost in giddiness over Obama's win.

"At the same time, I saw indicators of more backlash, more homophobia and more backpedaling on some of the progress that had been made," Washington says, noting the passage of Prop. 8, a gay adoption ban in Arkansas and an anti-affirmative action measure in Nebraska.

"I didn't want that [enthusiasm over Obama's victory] to lead to complacency," Washington says.

One of the e-mail recipients, Mary Anne Adams, organized a conference call that led to the creation of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition.

"We want to do something as a community to have an impact on the issues that we care about," says Rev. Maressa Pendermon, a founding member of the coalition. "It's certainly my personal hope that we become a place where people can come and know that we are on the pulse of what's happening in the community."

THE ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION is attempting to find the right balance between offering strong leadership while not dictating a top-down agenda.

"I think what black queer folks specifically are looking for is leadership and direction," Washington says. "While Atlanta is overall a progressive city, I think there's a lot of untapped potential."

The coalition hopes to help articulate goals for black gay men and lesbians in Atlanta, including through community meetings where an overall agenda is hammered out.

"We definitely want to see a more intentional, cohesive voice around the political agenda," Pendermon says. "Many of our issues are the same as all LGBT folks, but we may prioritize things differently."

Despite its large size and powerful reputation, Atlanta's black gay and lesbian population hasn't regularly mobilized around political and social justice issues.

"There are many individuals who are active, but we don't have a body that provides consistent black queer political engagement," Washington says. "Most black gay folks in Atlanta are closeted and are not ready for activism that may result in them being outed. Even still, people are ready for change, and they don't want to live in fear for the rest of their lives; but if someone doesn't do something, a majority of them will.

"A lot of us are not willing to risk anything for it," Washington adds. "Freedom and progressive change take risks, sometimes loss, and so I'm hoping that there's a critical mass of folks that are ready.

"Our goal is to identify those folks who are ready now," he says. "Ready to pick-up a bullhorn, or to at least show up at a rally if not organize one, or to use their skills — whether it's fundraising, or designing a fab website."

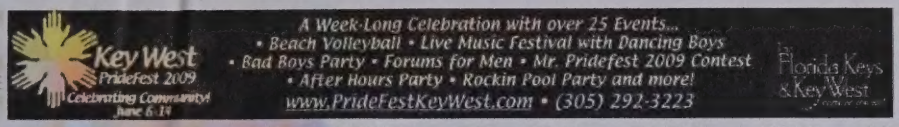
MUCH OF THE MISSION AND VISION for the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition remains uncertain, as organizers plan to seek community input. Along with gay issues, the coalition also wants to address social justice concerns such as affordable housing, living wages for workers and better access to healthcare for people living with HIV.

The coalition's first action was its endorsement of Democrat Jim Martin in his runoff election with Republican U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss. The endorsement was designed to get the candidate and obscure runoff on more black gay voters' radars, as well as introduce a black gay voice into Georgia's political discussions, Washington says.

While the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition will have a heavy political component, organizers also hope it will incorporate social events and wellness initiatives.

"One of the places where I think we have been missing in action, as a group of leaders, is we haven't really been intentional in our focus on youth, on young people who end up in this city in droves, and the many who wind up facing desperate situations," Pendermon says.

SOUTHERN VOICE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Pastor **Rick Warren** said he's not anti-gay, but he's 'opposed to gays using the term marriage for their partnership.' (Photo by AP)

Black gay activists: Ebenezer should dump Warren as MLK Day speaker

Speech at Atlanta church set for day before Obama's inauguration

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Friday, Jan 02, 2009 | By: LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN | COMMENTS | SHARE

The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition last week called on Ebenezer Baptist Church, the historic church where Dr. Martin Luther King served as pastor, to remove Pastor Rick Warren as the keynote speaker for its upcoming MLK Day service.

"Rev. Warren's hateful opposition to civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and reproductive rights for women, and his intolerance of diversity contradict the values of freedom and equality that this day represents," the group said in a Dec. 24 press release.

The coalition called on Ebenezer's pastor, Rev. Raphael G. Warnock, to rescind the invitation to Warren to speak at the Jan. 19 service.

The church did not respond to an interview request by press time.

"Bestowing Rev. Warren such a prominent role does not foster greater understanding between divided communities. Instead it drives more wedges between disenfranchised communities that are continually pitted against each other by the agents of racism and homophobia," the gay coalition said.

Held each year to commemorate the national holiday honoring King, the church service at Ebenezer attracts media, politicians and civil rights leaders from around the nation. Last year, then-Democratic hopeful Barack Obama spoke to the church the day before the national holiday, delivering a rousing call to responsibility that included a challenge to black churches to renounce homophobia.

Obama told the mostly black audience that "our own community has not always been true to King's vision of a beloved community," in part because "we have scorned our gay brothers and sisters instead of embracing them."

This year's MLK Day service takes place the day before Obama will be inaugurated as the nation's first African-American president. Warren, pastor of California's Saddleback Community Church and author of "The Purpose Driven Life," has also been tapped by Obama to give the invocation at his Jan. 20 inauguration, sparking outrage from gay activists who note Warren's vocal opposition to gay marriage.

"I don't know what Rev. Warnock's motives are. I do know that the invitation is an affront to queer communities," Craig Washington, a leader of the Atlanta coalition, said in an interview. "It does nothing to unify the community, it drives the wedge deeper. I think Ebenezer, like Obama, is seeking to find some political currency with the conservative movement in this country."

Another group of Atlanta activists is organizing a protest during Warren's speech at the church. Jeff Shade is one of the organizers for the massive Nov. 15 rally at the State Capitol for marriage equality and the smaller Dec. 13 "All I Want for Christmas is Equal Rights" picket at Lenox Mall. Schade said they are organizing another event for Warren's visit, although details were not finalized at press time.

"I'm not exactly sure what direction it will take. Martin Luther King Day here in Atlanta is a big day, so we're clearly trying to be positive, and send the right message," Schade said.

— Matt Schafer contributed

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the Gay protest greets Rick Warren at Atlanta MLK Service

King Center leader defends choice, decries critics

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN, Southern Voice | Jan 19, 11:02 AM

Several dozen gay rights activists braved chilly temperatures Monday morning to counter Rev. Rick Warren's keynote address at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Commemorative Service at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church.

As churchgoers and political leaders filled the Ebenezer sanctuary, protesters led by the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and GLBT ATL carried signs including "We still have a dream. Equality," proclaiming Warren incompatible with the slain civil rights leader's dream of fairness and justice for all people. Other progressive activists joined in the effort, with signs decrying war and bigotry, and supporting equal marriage rights.

Rev. Rick Warren is set to give the invocation at Barack Obama's presidential inauguration tomorrow, the day after giving the keynote address at the MLK Day service in Atlanta. (Photo by AP)

"On a cold morning, I think it is right to stand in protest of the King Center's choice," said Atlanta resident Duncan Teague.

Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life" and pastor of Saddleback Church in California, is an outspoken critic of gay marriage. Gay rights activists, many of whom strongly backed Barack Obama's presidential campaign, were shocked and outraged last month when it was announced that Warren would give the invocation at Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration. News that Warren would also address King's church the day before added insult to injury for many.

"Warren not only compares women having an abortion to Nazis, and pro-choice supporters to holocaust deniers, but he also opposed the right of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and queer folk to marriage, as well as [admittance] to his church," Craig Washington, a founding member of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition, said at a press conference last week officially announcing the MLK Day protest.

"These views, these words, are acts of oppression," Washington said. "They are incompatible with the dream of the beloved community Martin Luther King envisioned, and the spirit with which Coretta Scott King founded the King Center."

Speakers for this year's commemorative service included a wide variety of religious and political leaders, among them Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Dr. Julie Gerberding, outgoing director of the Atlanta-based federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Gerberding's comments included praise for a program dedicated to helping people with HIV.

King Center leader defends Warren

At about 12:30 p.m., Isaac Newton Farris Jr., president and CEO of the King Center, introduced Warren as "a true man of God."

Farris addressed the controversy over Warren head on and defended the King Center's decision to make him the keynote speaker.

"When Pastor Warren was selected to deliver the invocation [at Obama's inauguration], it sparked a bit of controversy because of his views on same-sex marriage and abortion rights," Farris said.

"But you know, Pastor Warren is not so easy to pigeonhole as the average conservative," Farris continued, noting Warren's positions on poverty, global warming and AIDS.

Addressing Warren's critics directly, "I submit to you that these are people who frankly don't understand the beloved community of Martin Luther King Jr.," Farris said.

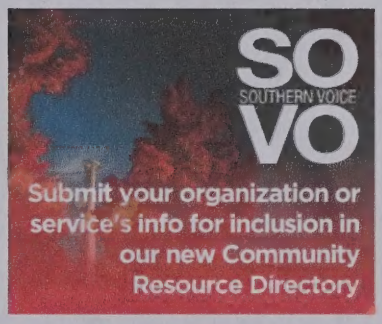
King's "beloved community" contains conservatives, liberals, people of different faiths, gays and lesbians, and people with diverse views on abortion and same-sex marriage, Farris said, suggesting that those who would not have Warren speak at the King Day service and inauguration lack "maturity."

"The abiding principle of the beloved community is not that we must all agree; the principle is that we are all God's children and therefore are responsible to and for each other," Farris said. "Rick Warren has more than demonstrated not only his belief in this principle, but his actions every day prove it."

Warren: 'God is love'

Warren took the podium at 12:40 to a standing ovation and shouts of "we love you" from the crowd. His sermon, which lasted approximately 50 minutes, did not address same-sex marriage.

The Bible says "God is love" and "you can't make God stop loving you," he said.



"Think about the changes we have been through in our lifetime, from lynchings to an African-American president -- that's an amazing thing," Warren said. "But there is one thing that will not change, and that is that God loves you."

"When you know that love, it takes that hurt and that anger right out of you," he continued, noting that "it was the love of God" that allowed Martin Luther King Jr. not to shout back when "segregationists called him every name in the book."

Warren invoked the hymn "We Shall Overcome" to talk about the word's significance in the Bible and what it takes to "overcome."

"A quiet and humble response" and "civility" will overcome anger, he said, and "love will always overcome fear."

Warren's sermon used the Biblical story of God telling Moses to lay down his staff, which he said represented identity, influence and income, to call on worshipers to dedicate their lives to God.

"Here is the point: If you want to be used by God, like Dr. Martin Luther King was used by God, you've got to lay it down. ... even if means you will misunderstood, maligned, criticized," he said.

"When you are in the center of God's will, people will say things about you, and you have to decide who you want to impress," Warren said. "I challenge you to live for an audience of one. Because it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks."

Warren went on to discuss his wife's calling to help AIDS orphans in Africa and their decision to minister to people with HIV. He did not address the devastating impact the disease continues to have on gay and bisexual men.

Warren also did not directly address the protests against him, but near the end of his remarks, he quoted "the great theologian Rodney King" to ask, "Can't we all just get along?"

"You can disagree without being disagreeable" and "you can walk hand in hand without seeing eye to eye," he said.

Southern Voice reporter Matt Schafer contributed.

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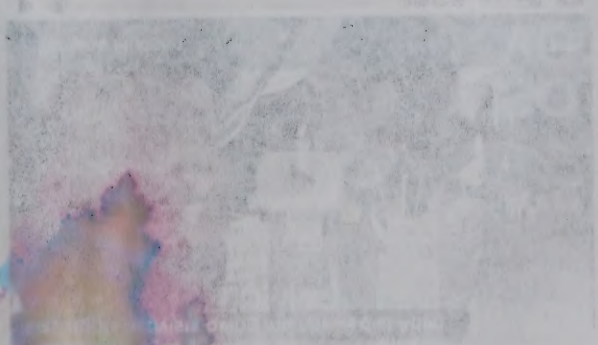
COMMENTS

mary229 - 1/20/09 12:34 AM:

It is amazing to me how the lbgt sect cries "intolerance" against Christians, when they are the most intolerant group on earth. As a Christian I respect your right to live as you choose and believe, even if I don't agree with it. So why don't you give us the same respect to live and believe as we choose? Because you are intolerant of any other ideology other than your own...and DEMAND that others believe as you do,& anyone who doesn't is labeled a "hater". That is the epitome of INTOLERANCE.

sweetfunkystuff - 1/19/09 3:30 PM:

And yes, I've heard of the existence of decent, gay-and-all-human-rights supporting Christians, but sadly, they're far outnumbered by mouth-breathing, knuckle-dragging trogolodytes like Farris and Warren. And let me say this: AMEN to the black gays and their allies (some of whom are Christians)



who stood up for their (and my) rights today!

sweetfunkystuff - 1/19/09 3:25 PM:

Unbe-effing-lievable! I can't believe that this SOB Farris had the gall to say that the protesters didn't "understand the beloved community of Martin Luther King Jr.". Oh, wait, I've known other black delusional so-called Christian homophobes like him, so I can believe it. And I almost threw up in my mouth reading (P)Rick Warren's words. It is because of people like Farris, Warren, and their ilk that I'm glad not to be a Christian.

vincent - 1/19/09 2:07 PM:

Christianity is stupid, even stupider is performed by arrogant people.

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AGENDA (Page 2)

ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 2009

1pm –4pm

I. **Welcome/Introductions** – Imani Evans 1:00 –1:15

II. **Brief History** – Craig Washington 1:15 – 1:30

III. **Overview of the Day** – Rev. Maressa 1:30 – 1:40

- Agenda
- Ground Rules
- Parking Lot

IV. **Creating a Shared Vision, Mission** and **Values** 1:40 – 2:40

Here we will answer the following questions:

- Who is the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition?
- What is the business of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition? Why
- What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?

We will use individual responses to create a shared vision, mission and values of the organization.

V. **BREAK** 2:40 –2:50

V1. **Creating a "group definition" and organizational structure** 2:50 – 3:50

Here we will answer the questions:

- ✓ How should the Black LGBT Coalition be defined? And
- ✓ What should the organizational structure be?

We will use individual responses to create a shared understanding of our legal and organizational structure.

VII. **Closing/Next Steps** 3:50 - 4:00

DRAFT
AGENDA
ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION MEETING
Saturday, May 2, 2009
1pm –4pm

Facilitator: Reverend Maressa Pendermon
Scribe:

Desired Outcomes:

- Coalition members will ***agree on*** shared vision, mission and values.
- Coalition members will ***agree on*** a group definition an organizational structure.

Strategic Pre-meeting Questions:

1. Who is the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition?
2. What is the work of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition? Why is that work necessary?
3. What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?
4. How should the Black LGBT Coalition be organized and what should the organizational structure be?

Working Definitions:

- **Alliance** – An agreement between two or more parties made in order to advance common goals.
- **Association** – A group of individuals who voluntarily enter into an agreement to form a body or organization to accomplish a purpose.
- **Coalition** – a coalition is an alliance among individuals or groups, during which they cooperate in joint action, each in her/his own self-interest, joining forces together for a common cause. A joining of factions with overlapping interests.
- **Corporation** - a group of people who get a charter granting them as a body, certain of the legal powers, rights, privileges, and liabilities of an individual, distinct from those of the individuals making up the group; a corporation can buy, sell, and inherit property.
- **"Group Definition"** – How the group will define itself as a legal entity (i.e. alliance, coalition, association, corporation, organization, etc.)
- **Mission** – The purpose, the business an organization engages in to achieve the purpose. Mission should answer the question: Why does the organization exist?
- **Organization** – A structure through which individuals cooperate systematically to conduct business.
- **Organizational Structure** – Refers to the way that an organization arranges people and jobs so that its work can be performed and its goals can be met; apportionment of responsibility and authority.
- **Values/Principles** – The rules by which a group makes decisions about right and wrong, should and shouldn't; good and bad. The beliefs of a group in which they have an emotional investment.
- **Vision** – What the impacted area, people and institutions are like once the mission is accomplished.

Organizing around Jim Martin
November 12, 2008

Mary Anne Adams, Craig Washington, Imani Evans, Monte Evans, Dr. Kathi Martin, Dr. Dionne Bates, Rev. Antonio Jones, Zandra Conway, SIMONE,
(am I missing some here?)

Interest in mobilizing to get out the vote for Jim Martin
Is that the focus of tonight's call? yes

Zandra – once we get the message out and people know what we are doing we need to get out info to the POC community. Important that we go to him as a united force and say we want to help get him elected.

Craig – Look at his positions on numerous issues including lgbt – healthcare, public education. We can appeal to a broader base than lgbt specific

M A – frame something around anti poverty/anti racist framework. Not interested in specifically lgbt issues (marriage, domestic partnerships, etc.).

Kathi – important to also show that we are specifically lgbt as well.

Craig – one way that Martin is supported is highlighting his support on Early Treatment of HIV Act. Will go before the general assembly in January.

Zandra – HRC is endorsing him.

Craig – will send out a PDF of info on his postions

Kathi – Try to have a conversation to talk about the issues.

Zandra – Will contact Martin's office to set up a teleconference or in person meeting.

Craig – what can we plan while we wait for the meeting?

Imani - Where does he stand on issues of violence against women that are pending?

M A - Who are we going in as? What will we name ourselves

Dionne Bates – How important are numbers when the meeting takes place?

M A - We can rally up the vote after the meeting.

Craig – Assert that we have a significant reach based on our relationships in the community.

M A – How should we identify ourselves?

POC Coalition?
Define ourselves as a coalition of Black Gay Folks?

Craig – is there a way of tracking his voting record on relevant legislation?

SIMONE – can we go back to POC and Black Gay Folks? Is there no space for this conversation?

Craig – thought of this as an intentionally Black Gay and Lesbian Coalition.

Imani – Is looking to do more POC work.

Zandra – The way to move forward is to push the absentee ballots out there and mobilize people to vote.

Agreement on Black Gay and Lesbian Coalition with POC as allys

Imani – would really like for us to promote his stance on issue vs. the lesser of two evils "Chamblee is horrible let's vote for Martin".

Zandra – Do a cheat sheet on both candidates?

Craig – What resources can we use to spread information?
List Serves, email, social networking, calls to our contacts

Next Steps

Imani – uniformed letter of endorsement to the community?

- Draft after meeting with Jim Martin

Craig – Do this in stages.

- Start with educating folks that "Dec. 2 is the Run Off Election"
- Everyone start sending this out to their contacts

Zandra – Deadline for review of his position is Sunday, November 16, 2008.

- Zandra will compile and resend to group

Zandra – Schedule meeting with Jim Martin – Nov. 13

- Follow-up call to be determined after meeting scheduled.

Upcoming events to make statement on Jim Martin

Thursday, November 20, 2008 Trans Day of Remembrance
Thursday, November 20, 2008 Out & Equal Kick Off

Meeting Minutes

ATLBlackLGBTCoalition

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Participants: Mary Anne Adams, Dionne Bates Simone Belle, Imani Evans, Darlene Hudson, Elder Tony Jones , Reverend Kathi Martin, and Reverend Maressa Pendermon

The meeting began at approximately 9:10pm with a suggestion from **Mary Anne** that we rotate facilitation responsibilities and one from **Simone** that we also rotate note taking responsibilities. **Maressa** agreed to take notes and **Darlene** agreed to facilitate the meeting at **Simone's** suggestion. **Darlene** gave an overview of she and **Craig's** experience attending a Jim Martin Get Out The Vote (GOTV) session and later canvassing at the capitol. She noted the following

- There seemed to be surprise among some of the white activist that there was a Black Coalition working on GOTV strategies for Jim Martin, and specifically noted that Jim Martin's LGBT point person did not seem particularly interested in engaging her in conversation about the Black LGBT interest in this stage of the process.
- Most of the people she spoke with did not need convincing to vote for Jim Martin, but rather needed more practical information such when, where and how to participate in the run-off election.

Imani offered that she is not sure that people do not needed convincing. She gave the group some information about Jim Martin's published positions on women's issues, and education reform and concluded that he is middle of the road but definitely "the lesser of two evils" among the candidates.

Mary Anne offered some information about working with Jim Martin's administration when he headed DHR and noted that her social work group was able to do "some pretty radical things" during his administration and she attributed that to Jim Martin's leadership.

Simone offered that he was pretty liberal on LGBT issues and may have served on the YouthPride board although she was not certain of that. A fairly lengthy discussion about Jim Martin's record ensued, ending with **Darlene** asking the question:

Has this coalition(The ATL Black LGBT Coalition) solidly decided to be a part of the GOTV for Jim Martin? There was **unanimous agreement that the answer is yes** and that that decision had been made at the last meeting.

Darlene asked how could she contribute and what are we doing? **Maressa** offered that there needed to be quick strategies for educating individuals about Jim Martin and for actually getting people out to vote. She also asked if this was an ad hoc coalition together for the Jim Martin GOTV process or if we are in it for the long haul. **Simone** said that we should separate the two conversations and have the "long haul" conversation later.

There was a lengthy discussion about various GOTV strategies. **Dionne** offered a spot on WRFG Tuesday, November 25, 2008. **Mary Anne** suggested that **Dionne** represent the group and Dionne agreed to do so if it would not create a conflict for her colleagues at the radio station. **Mary Anne** requested comments from Elder Jones and Reverend Kathi. **Reverend Kathi** stated that she agreed with the process that had been discussed thus far, but asked if we had gotten the word out about who we are? **Elder Jones** requested that we move into Action Steps given the lateness of the hour and the short time before the election. The group then made the following decisions:

1. **Mary Anne** and **Simone** will draft a statement on behalf of the group that introduces the group and that spells out why we support Jim Martin. They will get that statement to **Imani** and **Darlene** by **3pm on Thursday November 20th**, who will offer edits if necessary. They will then share the statement with the entire coalition before sending it out no later than the morning of **Friday November 21st**.
2. **Everyone** in the coalition is asked to begin sending GOTV announcements to all their list serves and are encouraged to participate in the phone banking and or canvassing happening around the city.
3. **Reverend Kathi** and **Elder Jones** will encourage other progressive Black Pastors to get this information to their congregants, asking the churches to make announcement for the next two Sundays.
4. Once the statement is complete, we will ask Zandra if she can ensure that it gets to all the media outlets quickly.

All of the deliverables will be communicated to the group by email and the group will meet again, **Tuesday, November 25th at 9pm**. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Reverend Maressa Pendermon

ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION

Meeting Summary (conference call)

Monday, December 8, 2008

Participants: Reverend Maressa Pendermon, Zandra Conway, Cheryl Courtney-Evans, Craig Washington

Meeting commenced: Approximately 9:00pm

Due to the absence of key members Mary Anne Adams and Imani Evans, we decided to postpone making any decisions regarding our upcoming Kwanzaa event. We were expecting an update regarding the status of preparations for this event. Both Mary Anne and Imani sent emails earlier on Monday notifying members that each would not be able to participate in this call. We discussed concerns that the event is less than 3 weeks away.

We briefly discussed our plans (which were confirmed at the November 25th meeting) to have a public forum to get broader community input in determining our vision, mission and goals.

Cheryl Courtney-Evans joined us for this call and stated her interest in serving as a member of the coalition.

Meeting adjourned: Approximately 9:40pm

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Washington

ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION

Meeting Summary (conference call)

Monday, December 8, 2008

Participants: Reverend Marissa Henderson, Zandra Conway, Cheryl Courtney-Evans, Craig Washington

Meeting convened: Approximately 9:00pm

Due to the absence of key members Mary Anne Adams and Imani Evans, we decided to postpone making any decisions regarding upcoming Kwanzaa event. We were expecting an update regarding the status of preparations for this event. Both Mary Anne and Imani sent emails earlier on Monday notifying members that they would not be able to participate in this call. We discussed concerns that the event is less than 3 weeks away.

We briefly discussed our plans (which were confirmed at the November 25th meeting) to have a public forum to get broader community input in determining our vision, mission and goals.

Cheryl Courtney-Evans joined us for this call and stated her interest in serving as a member of the coalition.

Meeting adjourned: Approximately 9:40pm

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Washington

ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION

Meeting Summary Monday, December 30, 2008

Participants: Mary Anne Adams, Dionne Bates, Zandra Conway, Cheryl Courtney-Evans, Darlene Hudson, Elder Antonio Jones, Craig Washington

Meeting commenced: Approximately 7:30pm

In setting the agenda, we decided to focus on determining an organized response to the Ebenezer – Rick Warren issue and postpone setting our vision and mission statement. This was due to the lack of young people at the meeting and the time constraints regarding the response. We want younger organizers participating in setting our official vision and mission statement. We felt that we could operate with the self description as "an Atlanta based group committed to a social justice agenda and advancing the human rights of all marginalized communities."

We discussed the importance of ensuring that this response is led by black lgbt organizers. Craig and Mary Anne shared that Jeff Graham (Georgia Equality executive director) and Paul Schappaugh (organizer of nov 15th prop 8 rallies) stated their intentional deference as white men to black leadership of community response. Both Jeff and Paul committed to supporting and participating in the actions planned by the Coalition. Paul has scores of volunteers as a result of prop 8 organizing. Mary Anne and Elder Jones addressed opportunities to build relationships with allies in black communities including faith based orgs, elected officials, and other community leaders as well as white and other poc lgbt organizations. Darlene suggested that we work in coalition with reproductive rights organizers i.e., Spark, and other feminist orgs. We confirmed that the press conference speakers should be black and queer. Dionne expressed her reservations about a conducting a direct action at Ebenezer as it may be seen as divisive.

We decided to initiate a 5-stage response.

1. Have discussion with Rev. Warnock and Coalition (before January 12th) to address concerns directly with him and request replacing Rick Warren. Elder Jones emphasized the importance of inviting Ebenzer's pastor Rev. Warnock to discuss the decision to have Rev. Rick Warren serve as the keynote speaker at the MLK Commemorative Service on MLK Day-Monday, January 19th. We assume that Warnock will proceed with having Rev. Warren speak. **Elder Jones will contact Rev. Warnock and arrange this meeting. ***We need to select suggested keynote speaker to replace Warren.**
2. Hold a press conference on January 12th at the MLK Center for Non-Violent Social Change. **Darlene will secure chosen speakers-Paris Hatcher, Troy Sanders, Denise Hill (Cheryl will contact), Rev. Kathi Martin and Craig Washington. Darlene will work with Jeff Graham on technical tasks including PA system.**
3. Hold the Bayard Rustin Audre Lorde breakfast on Monday, January 19th 8am – 12:30pm. From 8 – 9:30am, this event will serve as prep rallying point for Ebenezer demonstration (see #4). We are considering having breakfast at Studioplex (closer to Ebenezer). **Mary Anne will see if Studioplex is available and get logistic info. Craig is working with Darlene (food), Ebonee Bradford (food/volunteers) and Charles Stephens (program) to organize breakfast. ***We will need shuttle arrangement to transport participants from breakfast site to Ebenezer and back to 139 (if breakfast is at 139 ralph mcgill) or from Studioplex to Ptree and Ellis (if breakfast is at Studioplex).**
4. Conduct non-disruptive demonstration near Ebenezer (actual site to be determined) on Monday, January 19th 9:45am. We will have pre-designed signs that have the same message. Demonstrators can return to breakfast site after action to eat, warm up and prepare for the March. **Darlene will work with Jeff Graham in identifying actual site and getting access. Mary Anne will ask Paris Hatcher to work with other young organizers on developing sign message(s). Craig will ask Maurice Cook (graphic designer) to get quotes for sign printing.**
5. Participate in the MLK March which will is set to begin at 1pm. Note: March usually late and does not start until 1:30 – 2pm. Marchers will carry same signs displayed at Ebenezer demonstration. Marchers will be provided handouts with chant lyrics. **Mary Anne will ask Simone Bell to work with Cheryl in preparing chant handouts.**

Meeting adjourned: Approximately 10:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Washington

Subj: **RE: [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition] Coalition Meeting December 30th Notes (draft)**
Date: 12/31/2008 1:03:05 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
From: craig.washington@aidatlanta.org
Reply-to: AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com
To: AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com

Please contact me immediately if you find any inaccuracies or omissions.
Thanks,
Craig

ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION
Meeting Summary Monday, December 30, 2008

Participants: Mary Anne Adams, Dionne Bates, Zandra Conway, Cheryl Courtney-Evans, Darlene Hudson, Elder Antonio Jones, Craig Washington
Meeting commenced: Approximately 7:30pm
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Meeting adjourned: 10:30pm
Respectfully submitted,
Craig Washington

Your email settings: Individual Email|Traditional
Change settings via the Web (Yahoo! ID required)
Change settings via email: Switch delivery to Daily Digest | Switch to Fully Featured
Visit Your Group | Yahoo! Groups Terms of Use | Unsubscribe

Tuesday, January 06, 2009 AOL: RHu4969824

> Journal-Constitution today, so a lot of people are aware of
> his visit & the
> opposition to it. I'm sure many in the Atlanta Meeting
> will want to be part
> of a nonviolent demonstration against Rick Warren.
>
> I will be following the lead for the day from my neighbor
> Darlene Hudson, a
> Black organizer of the annual Bayard Rustin breakfast each
> King Holiday. I
> have already had an email from her promising that there
> will action against
> Rick Warren's invitation. Adam, I suggest you get in
> touch with Darlene if
> you are not already - <rhu4969824@aol.com>.
>
> Peace,
>
> Bert Skellie (social justice activist & member of
> Atlanta Friends Social
> Concerns Committee)
> 404-378-5883
>
> On Tue, Dec 23, 2008 at 11:45 PM, Andrew Rose
> <andrewnewkirkrose@yahoo.com>wrote:
>
> >
> > Dear Steve Collins, Clerk,
> > Bill Holland, Recording Clerk.
> > Bert Skellie,
> > cc: Adam May, George Lakey, Elizabeth Boardman
> >
> >
> > Dear Steve, Bill, Bert, and others,
> >
> > On January 19 Atlanta will host Rick Warren at the
> Ebenezer Baptist Church
> > for a 10AM service. As you probably know Rick Warren
> is an evangelical
> > preacher who contributed his political cache to the
> repeal of gay marriage
> > in California. You also probably know Rick Warren was
> selected by Barack
> > Obama to give an invocation at the inauguration Jan
> 20, a move that some gay
> > people have likened to being "kicked in the
> stomach."
> >
> > I am 41, Quaker, son of Quakers, and living in Boulder
> Colorado currently
> > and list with the San Francisco Religious Society of
> Friends. While in San
> > Francisco I took part in numerous nonviolent civil
> disobediences and also
> > lent a hand outside of town with political,
> environmental, and global trade
> > campaigns. George Lakey of the Philadelphia Friends
> Meeting mentored me on
> > a variety of direct action strategies and experiential
> initiatives. David
> > Hartsough is also my elder and I worked with his wife

Clark-Moore

Park

Clark_Moore
@NPS.Gov

MLK Action Planning Committee Wednesday, January 7, 2009 7pm
san francisco coffeehouse

Present: Jamida Orange, Todd Vierling, Adam May, Justin Carter, Tracie Stern, Letitia Campbell, Nikki Young, Montana, Mary Anne Adams, R. Darlene Hudson, Jeff Graham, Cheryl Courtney Evans, Jeff Schade, Craig Washington, Simone Bell

We held a discussion to reach clarity and consensus regarding the goals of our actions, the issues we intended to raise, and the messages we want to convey. It was stated that the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition decided to address the homophobia, sexism and patriarchal oppressiveness of Rev. Rick Warren's public statements and efforts. The Coalition sees the assault on lgbt human rights and reproductive rights for women as the main issues to be addressed. Questions were raised about the risk of a multi-issue focus being taken less serious than having a single queer centered focus. Several attendees stated that gay marriage and proposition 8 are not the central issues we are challenging; that reproductive rights are indeed a gay issue as well, and that we were not willing to render reproductive rights as a secondary issue. We addressed the threat of theocracy that Warren poses. We agreed that we wanted to 1) denounce Warren's bigotry as contrary to the beloved community concept, and 2) assert our vision of justice, peace and inclusion.

- ***Press Conference- January 12 12 noon State Capitol*** - The press conference will be held on Monday, January 12th at the State Capitol Building at the front entrance plaza. Some concerns were raised regarding the potential fallout of having a gay action on the first day of the state legislative session (anti-gay adoption measures, our efforts being conflated with the inauguration issues). In response, others suggested that we might benefit from media presence convened for the session. Confirmed speakers are Paris Hatcher, Darlene Hill, Troy Sanders and Craig Washington.

- ***King Center Demonstration - January 19 8:30am*** - Edgewood and Jackson Ave At 8:30am, we will convene at Edgewood and Jackson Ave, one black away from the actual demonstration site on Auburn and Jackson Ave.

- ***Bayard Rustin-Audre Lorde Breakfast January 19 10:30am 139 ralph mcgill*** - Demonstrators will be shuttled from Edgewood and Jackson to 139 Ralph McGill blvd.

- ***Messaging***– There was a great deal of deliberation, passion and differing viewpoints regarding message content and tone. The following concepts were offered as reference themes for the actual messages chosen to be printed on signs and used as sound bites.

- **Non inclusive vision of beloved community**
- **Human rights**
- **Universal declaration of human rights language**
- **Rights to self determination, self definition of family**
- **Second class citizenship**
- **Democracy not theocracy**
- **Reconciliation**
- **Peace**
- **Body as sacred**

Next Steps

- Paris, Letitia and Deepali will ensure selection of messages by Saturday, January 10th. Craig will get quotes for printing 300 20'x 17' signs. Todd will set up downloadable versions of pre-messaged signs for other marchers to extend our messages to other attendees.
- Darlene will finalize outline for flow of the demonstration.
- Todd will present shuttle plan to ensure transport from Auburn Avenue to 139 ralph mcgill blvd.

Special Announcement

- First Annual Human Rights Ecumenical Service January 11th Tabernacle Baptist Church 5pm 475 Boulevard. Candace Phillips contacted Craig to invite organizers to this event. The Alliance of Affirming Faith Based Organizations wants to support and participate in the MLK Action Planning Committee events including the demonstration. This offers another opportunity for progressive coalition building beyond January 19th.

Re: [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition] Coalition Meeting Reminder for Tomorrow, Dec 30th

AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com] on behalf of dionne.bates@att.net [dionne.bates@att.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2008 1:31 PM

To: AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com; AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com

Cc: revkat100@aol.com

Kathi:

Thank you for bringing this issue, again, to the forefront. I was at the meeting last night and there was a lot of productivity and I think that some strides were certainly made. I did, however, express my concern about protesting at Ebenezer during the services on King Day and upon waking this morning, I can honestly say that I am even more unsettled about the decision to do so for many of the reasons that you stated.

When I joined this coalition, I did so under the impression that the two primary goals would be 1) Cultivating a more visible presence of LGBT people in the community, particularly more visibility of Black LGBT people and their families within the Black community and 2) establishing and developing relationships within the general community (particularly the Black community) in an effort to eradicate some of the division that often lies between Black LGBT people and the Black community.

Having stated what my initial impressions of the goals of the coalition were, as much as I dislike Ebenezer's choice of Pastor Rick Warren, my conscience and my heart tell me that a protest at Ebenezer (particularly on MLK Day) has the potential to be just as divisive as the presence of Rick Warren. It is possible that such a protest may impede the coalition's efforts to build those bridges within the Black community (locally and/or nationally), as the (traditional) Black church (despite perpetuating homophobia, patriarchy, and self-hate) continues to be a very important foundation for many in the Black (LGBT and heterosexual) community.

I would like to see the coalition follow through with conversations with Pastor Warnock. I honestly belief that that is where understanding and healing begins. I would also like to see the coalition make strides to reach out to some of the affirming churches in the community for ideas/suggestions/support on how to reach out to institutions that are not affirming to start those dialogues. It might also be advantageous for the coalition to work in conjunction with the event that is being held at Tabernacle on Jan. 11th. That's what King did. During that era, there were White preachers telling their white congregants to go out and kill Black folks, but King never went to their churches. He did address it, but he went into our community (e.g. mass meetings at Black churches) to engage our people to do the work proactively and peacefully. I think that we should reach out to our affirming communities and institutions. Perhaps we could plan to have our own event, with the support of our allies, on King Day with a speaker whom we feel is more suitable than Rick Warren.

While I am certainly on one accord with the coalition regarding Rick Warren's presence, I cannot be in agreement with holding a protest at Ebenezer. -Dionne

--

"Only in truth can change emerge
and eradicate oppression,
injustice, prejudice, and
ignorance."
-D. Dionne Bates, Ph.D. (2006)

> ---------- Original message from revkat100@aol.com: ----------
>
> Greetings:

I apologize for missing the meeting last night. After riding around lost for over an hour I decided to go home. I have since spoken to a couple of people who were in attendance and I feel the need to express my thoughts on the decision to boycott the Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration.

I whole-heartedly agree that the selection of Rick Warren as the keynote speaker is absurd and offensive. His stance on gay marriage is totally against the kind of beloved community toward which Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK Jr.) aspired. The closest I can get to an understanding of his position would be through the words of Coretta Scott King who said:

"Gay and lesbian people have families, and their families should have legal protection, whether by marriage or civil union," she said. "A constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages is a form of gay bashing and it would do nothing at all to protect traditional marriages."

King himself stated, "Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children." He never added an addendum to exclude LGBT folk.

MLK Jr. was a Christian pastor. His work for freedom was rooted in his belief in God. I have no evidence of him ever protesting at a church. He would have had plenty of opportunity since racism was supported by white Christians (just as homophobia is in our time). Something must be done in20response to the selection of Rick Warren but protesting the institution that King loved on a day that is set aside to commemorate a man of justice is not the way.

The press conference is a good approach to let our concerns be known. I also think there needs to be a conversation with the senior pastor of Ebenezer, Rev. Raphael Warnock and/or the planning committee. We should also try to get representation on the planning committee.

MLK Jr. stated:

Men often hate each other because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they can not communicate; they can not communicate because they are separated. Stride Toward Freedom : the Montgomery Story (1958)

Let's not respond to a negative situation with more negativity. Let's work to build coalitions within the rest of the African American community. The civil rights movement was advanced along with white allies. Let's not burn bridges we have not yet tried to cross.

If the coalition continues forward with this protest of Ebenezer Baptist Church please remove my name from all communication regarding that action. I will still be working on building bridges through communication with the leadership of the MLK Jr Commemoration Service.
Peace & blessings,
Rev. Dr. Kathi Martin

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Anne <madam0 @gmail.com>
To: AtlBlackLGBTCoalitio
n@yahoogroups.com

[AtlBlackLGBTCoalition] Re: Response to Darlene and Resignation from Coalition

AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com] on behalf of dionne.bates@att.net [dionne.bates@att.net]

Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 10:13 PM

To: AtlBlackLGBTCoalition [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com]

Dear Darlene:

I am very happy that the demonstration is coming along well. While I don't don't agree with it, I wish nothing but success for those who are planning it.

You know, over the last few days, I've had to come to the realization that some of the approaches that the coalition has taken do not necessarily work for me. I think that having a local ALL Black LGBT coalition is one of the most powerful concepts that has been conceived in a very long time. But, I have to ask, what makes this coalition different than all the previous ones? In my mind, the concept has not been properly defined and though, you encouraged me to consider some components that would make a good solid foundation (e.g. goals, vision, mission, etc.), it seems to me that in order to have a solid foundation, we have to determine our purpose first, as well as our process for making such determinations. I feel that all the members should have a voice about the purpose and process. I also feel that the purpose and process should be consistent. Within the last two months, we have gone from being a coalition to rouse black gay and lesbian activist to capitalize on the energy of the election, to being a coalition with a social justice agenda, to being a coalition geared toward tapping into black gay Atlanta's political power and mobilizing black gay men and lesbians around political issues, to being a coalition advancing the human rights of all marginalized communities. Who are we? There is no consistency in our purpose and there can be no development of foundation without it. If feel that consistency would also help us determine who we want to reach and who we want to form alliances with, as well as help others determine if they want to collaborate with the coalition. Consistency in process would help us to research thoroughly those issues brought before us and determine how we respond to those issues that are congruent with our purpose, so as to maintain credibility. Quite honestly, I initially thought that the coalition was about bringing visibility to Black LGBT people and, through dialogue, attempt to bridge the gap between our comunity and our Black heterosexual brothers and sisters, and galvanize the resources of the Black LGBT community to bring more unity and power to our (Black LGBT) community. That is my interest as well as my gift (along with developing organization and protocol). I am very supportive of LGBT people of other races/ethnicities and I am very supportive of advancing human rights for other marginalized communities. But, at this juncture, my allegiance is geared more towards the Black LGBT community and the Black community (in general), and trying to develop better understanding (with the understanding that we may agree to disagree) wthin each community and between communities (I know that sentence was poorly structured, but I hope that you get what I was trying to say).

I am certainly not a separatist (by any means), but I have so many things on my plate that I have had to prioritize the causes that I take on. I cannot be all things to all people. There are soooo many wonderful LGBT people (of all races and ethnicities) out there taking on some great causes. Because of that, I don't have to be all things to all people. I can offer my support without taking on their cause. My primary focus is Black LGBT people. (BTW, if there is anything that I can do to help prepare for the Rustin/Lorde Breakfast, please let me know.) I can stay in my own lane while offering my support to those whose purpose, goals, and vision are different than mine. Given that, I would like to go from being a member of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition to being a supporter. I wish the coalition much success as it continues its course of activism. I hope that our courses meet in the near future.

Respectfully-
Dionne
--
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ignorance."
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[AtlBlackLGBTCoalition] Re: Response to Darlene and Resignation from Coalition

AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com] on behalf of dionne.bates@att.net [dionne.bates@att.net]

Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 [illegible]

To: AtlBlackLGBTCoalition (AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com)

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Respectfully-
Dionne

--

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-D. Dionne Bates, Ph.D. (2005)

Therefore, rather than being an "Inactive Coalition Member," it is best
that I resign from the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition.

I wish you well in your efforts in social justice. I am sure we will have other opportunities to work together as I remain committed to the
building a loving and just community.

Peace & blessings,

Rev. Dr. Kathi Martin (revkat)

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Re: [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition] Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and Allies Stand In ...

AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com] on behalf of revkat100@aol.com [revkat100@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2009 1:53 PM

To: Revkat100@aol.com; AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Revkat100@aol.com
To: AtlBlackLGBTCoalition@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sat, 10 Jan 2009 10:53:19 AM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: Re: [AtlBlackLGBTCoalition] Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and
Allies Stand In ...

Darlene,

You are correct that it is unfortunate that some members of the "coalition" have been silent. I can only speak for myself to let you know my reasons are the following:

Although I (and others) expressed reservations about the approach of
the demonstration during and after the face to face meeting, there was
little if any positive consideration of the concerns.

The "coalition" moved on a path to plan a demonstration and send a
press release even though we had not yet defined our purpose or mission.

The email list expanded beyond the initial founding members without the
agreement of the group. Then email exchanges, which should have been
internal to a small group, became a public viewing of disagreements.

Meetings were held by a subset of the "coalition" without prior notification to or discussion with the rest of the group.

I had not removed myself from this "coalition" because I believed it
could be a very positive entity in the Atlanta African-American LGBT
community. I am beginning, however, to believe this is a group that
embodies a view and approach much different than my own. The re are
various approaches to social justice. Apparently my approach to coalition building is incongruent with the path of this group.

RECENT ACTIVITY
Visit Your Group

Weight Loss Group
on Yahoo! Groups
Get support and
make friends online.

Health Groups
for people over 40
Join people who are
staying in shape.

10 Day Club
on Yahoo! Groups
Share the benefits
of a high fiber diet.

Craig Washington

From: RHu4969824@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:14 PM
To: atlantaprogressivenews@gmail.com
Subject: Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and Allies Stand In Solidarity Against Pastor Rick

For Immediate Release
Contact: R. Darlene Hudson (404)441-4827 (rhu4969824@aol.com) or Craig Washington (404) 790-5884
(@craigw)

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition and Allies Stand In Solidarity Against Pastor Rick Warren?s M.L. King Jr. Address

Atlanta- On January 12, 2009 at 12 noon on the steps of the State Capitol, the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition, an Atlanta based activist group, and our allies will express disapproval of the decision made by the MLK Center for Non-Violent Social Change to have Reverend Rick Warren deliver the keynote address at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service on January 19, 2009. The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition is committed to a social justice agenda that advances the human rights of all marginalized communities.

The selection of Pastor Rick Warren as the keynote speaker at this service is an affront to the very spirit of non-violent social justice and inclusivity in which the King Center was founded. Warren's widely broadcast statements regarding homosexuality and women's rights to reproductive choice threaten our progress toward achieving a more just and loving society. Assigning Rev. Warren such a prominent role does not build bridges between communities. This choice drives more wedges between the many disenfranchised that are pitted against each other by the agents of racism, sexism and homophobia.

The Atlanta LGBT Coalition along with supportive clergy and allies will counter Warren's divisive rhetoric with the assertion that we can make real the beloved community that includes not just some but all of us as fully deserving human beings. We believe as Dr. King did that "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter". To that end, we choose to speak out loudly in the name of equality, justice and freedom, and the rights of all to determine our own lives.

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12/24/08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: R. Darlene Hudson (404) 441-4827 (rhu4969824@aol.com) or Craig Washington (404) 790-5884 (craig@craigwerks.com)

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition Calls for Ebenezer Baptist Church and King Center to Rescind Invitation to Pastor Rick Warren

ATLANTA- Today, the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition, an Atlanta based group committed to a social justice agenda and advancing the human rights of all marginalized communities is hereby urging Reverend Raphael G. Warnock to retract the selection of Pastor Rick Warren as the featured speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr., Commemorative Service scheduled for January 19, 2009 at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. Rev. Warren's hateful opposition to civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and reproductive rights for women, and his intolerance of diversity contradict the values of freedom and equality that this day represents. Bestowing Rev. Warren such a prominent role does not foster greater understanding between divided communities. Instead it drives more wedges between disenfranchised communities that are continually pitted against each other by the agents of racism and homophobia. In effect it enables oppression and implies that there are still some people acceptable to hate.

We cannot build bridges across our differences by rewarding those who would deny people their human rights based on their sexual orientation, gender, race or economic status. On the eve of a historical inauguration we have the opportunity to achieve unprecedented progressive change in this nation, to fully realize the beloved community that Dr. Martin Luther King championed. On Monday, January 19th, the eyes of the world will be fixed upon the birthplace of one who challenged us to love somebody who was different. We can choose to see differences differently, not as divisions but rather as strengths and opportunities to achieve greater mutual understanding, love and acceptance. In doing so, we must reach out beyond those who look, believe, or love just like us. Such acts require the courage to relinquish old traditions that shackle our minds and hearts and adapt new ways that liberate us all. We encourage Reverend Warnock, congregants of Ebenezer Baptist Church and the King Center to demonstrate that courage, correct this dangerous mistake while there is still time, and help us reach that elusive mountaintop which for too long has remained a fabled dream deferred.

Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition Founding Members: Mary Anne Adams, Simone Bell, Dr. Dionne Bates, Zandra Conway, Cheryl Courtney-Evans, Imani Evans, R.Darlene Hudson, Rev. Antonio Jones, Rev. Dr. Kathi Martin, Rev. Maressa Pendermon, Charles Stephens, Craig Washington.

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MEETING NOTES
ATLBLACKLGBT COALITION MEETING
Saturday, May 2, 2009
1pm – 4pm

Meeting Participants: Imani Evans, Cheryl Courtney Evans, Craig Washington, Sandra Lawson, Arthur Hatcher, Michael Brewer, and Rev. Maressa Pendermon (Meeting Facilitator)

After a lengthy discussion about current events specifically focused on the recent suicides of young children who have been bullied in schools and what the response of the community and the ATLBlackLGBT Coalition should be, the meeting officially began.

Group Decisions:

1. Imani and Craig will take the collective answers to questions 1, 2, 3 and create draft vision, mission and values statements.
2. Rev. Maressa. Sandra and Michael will take the collective answers to question 4 below and create a proposed organizational structure including defining what being a member of the coalition could mean.
3. Rev. Maressa agreed to send out the notes from the May 2nd meeting
4. The coalition will have a conference call on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 10:30am to discuss and approve the work that will be done in the two committees.
5. The next in person meeting will be Saturday, June 13, 2009 @ 1pm.
6. Imani agreed to continue sending out meeting reminders.

Meeting participants answered the following questions individually:

1. Who is the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition?
2. What is the work of the Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition? Why is that work necessary?
3. What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?
4. How should the Black LGBT Coalition be organized and what should the organizational structure be?

The group then reviewed everyone's responses to determine what the similarities were and so that the group could compile shared mission, vision, and value statements. **The collective responses** of the group are below.

1. Who is the AtlBlackLGBT Coalition?

The ATLBLACKLGBT Coalition is a coalition of open, progressive Black LGBT leaders and activists, and groups that are committed to advancing an agenda created and advanced by Black LGBT leaders and activists.

2. **What is the work of the AtlBlackLGBT Coalition? Why is that work necessary?**

The work of the coalition is to address the intersection of oppressions that impact Black LGBT persons and all marginalized people through advocacy, education, community building, coalition building. The coalition seeks to advocate for the human and civil rights of a diverse Black LGBT community by defining a progressive Black LGBT agenda based on the expressed needs of the communities we represent. The goal is to create a more loving society.

The work is important and necessary because the Black LGBT community is in need of holistic liberation and it provides a Black queer voice that is currently missing among the broader LGBT community. Additionally it is important because we are uniquely and equally a part of both the Black and Gay communities.

3. **What are the values/principles that should inform how we work together within the coalition and how the coalition works within the community?**

- Diversity/Inclusion
- Integrity (Both in the work and in the process)
- Transparency (action and process)
- Mutual respect for one another and for the community
- Love (for each other specifically)
- Openness
- Recognize oppression and privilege and its responsibilities
- Self-determination
- Equality
- All voices need to be heard
- Virtue
- Democracy

These values should be written and included in whatever written materials are created.

4. **How should the Black LGBT Coalition be organized and what should the organizational structure be?**

The participants decided that the following components should be present within the organizational structure:

- ✓ We should be a coalition as opposed to another legal structure.
- ✓ There should be a board and/or steering committee structure, an advisory committee and a committee structure.
- ✓ There should be an intentional effort to rotate leadership annually or bi-annually.
- ✓ We should have a well-defined membership structure.
- ✓ A co-directors model.

Proposed Membership Structure

The ATLBlackLGBT Coalition has decided to be a **membership organization.** A membership organization is one that is funded by individuals who have common needs, share a common vision, and are willing to commit their time, financial or other resources, and/ or patronage. Membership can be individual or corporate, and may also be based on professional, religious, political, or social affiliations. The following specifics are proposed:

- ✓ **The ATLBlackLGBT will have both individual and group membership.** **Groups** can join the coalition by paying the designated "group dues" Groups will participate in the decision-making of the coalition by having up to four (4) active members attending coalition meetings. **Each year groups must designate 1 (one) of their active members as the voting member within the coalition.** precludes "stacking" **Individuals** may join the coalition by paying the designated "individual dues" and actively participating in coalition activities. Individuals will participate in the decision-making of the coalition by having 1 vote.
- ✓ **Membership is open** to any group or individual who agrees to pay the designated dues and to support and work toward achieving the coalition's mission and stated goals; and who agree to intentionally demonstrate the stated values of the coalition when interacting within the coalition and within the community. The coalition has the right to revoke or refuse membership to any group or individual that demonstrates a disregard for the mission, vision and values of the coalition * orientation for coalition members *
- ✓ **A member in good standing is one that:**
  1. Attends meetings regularly. Must be represented at 75% of regularly scheduled meetings. *
  2. Pay designated dues
  3. Exercises voting rights
  4. Serves as link between the coalition and the membership organization (when appropriate) by facilitating the flow of information between the groups and sharing the organizations resources with the coalition when possible (i.e. meeting space, volunteers etc.)

membership in application — "state your interest in joining the Coalition" ↓ to screen

- ✓ **The benefits of being an active member are:**
  1. The opportunity to work with like-minded individuals to achieve shared goals within the targeted communities.
  2. The tangible support of the coalition for your individual and group social justice activities within the coalition's targeted communities.
  3. Structured opportunities for leadership and skills- building workshops sponsored by the coalition and its community partners.

create membership brochure *

Suggestion

I suggest we create a **membership application** that will work for both individuals and groups and that we design a ***membership orientation*** so that when we are formally introduced to the community we can have applications available as well as announce a membership orientation.

in application: "state your interest in joining the Coalition"

Proposed Organizational Structure

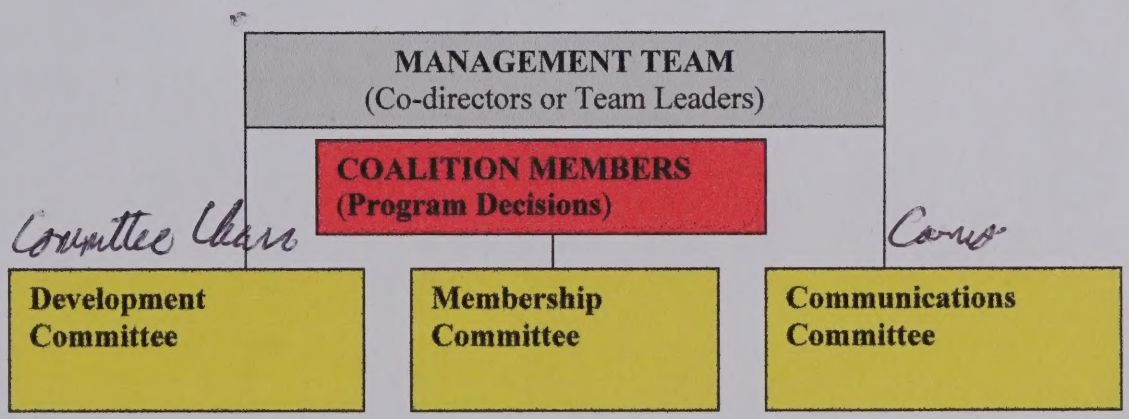
Based on the group's May 2, 2009 conversation, I propose the following structure:

Team Structure

Team structures differ from hierarchical structures in several ways. A team structure attempts to link the formal and informal group relations. This type of organization emphasizes interpersonal relations as a determinant of conduct and performance. Some of the features of this type of organizational structure include:

- ✓ Managers who serve more as facilitators and group leaders than final decision-makers.
- ✓ Managers whose primary responsibility is setting objectives and evaluating performance.
- ✓ Work styles that are more participatory and interactive.
- ✓ Focus on tasks, accomplishment of shared objectives, and accountability to the team. Use of temporary teams or task forces to deal with particular issues or crosscutting initiatives.

Team Structure Example



Suggestion:

The management team could consist of **co-directors** or a group of **team leaders** who would be responsible for coordinating the work of committees. I suggest three and no more than four working committees should we choose this structure. Members of the management team of the ATLBlackLGBT Coalition must be Black/African-American and will have a fixed term of 2 years. Members of management may serve up to two additional terms after their initial term.

AGENDA
ATLANTA BLACK LGBT COALITION MEETING
Saturday, June 13, 2009
1pm –4pm

Facilitator: Reverend Maressa Pendermon
Scribe:

Desired Outcomes:

- Coalition members will ***agree on*** shared vision, mission and values.
- Coalition members will ***agree on*** a group definition for an organizational structure.

I. **Welcome/Introductions**	1:00 –1:15
II. **Approval of Mission, Vision, Values**	1:15 – 1:45
III. **Review and Approval of Proposed Organizational Structure**	1:45 – 2:30
IV. **Next Steps /Closing**	2:30 – 3:00